

IN RECOGNITION OF A.E. "BEAN"
BACKUS

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize one of America's greatest artists, A.E. (Bean) Backus, who I'm proud to say was a native and lifelong South Floridian. On canvas, he captured the very essence of our State's natural beauty.

I count myself among Bean Backus' admirers for portraying Florida as it was and as it should be.

From his earliest days on the Indian River, when he was given a set of watercolors at the age of eight to a lifetime body of work of over 6,000 paintings, Bean has left his indelible mark on all who have followed in the Backus style.

His works are collected and exhibited in Florida and around the world, each telling a story of South Florida's unique natural heritage. Most of it has disappeared from daily public view, left only to preserves and weekend nature trips, but through Bean it is kept alive in the homes of those fortunate to own a Backus or visit one in a museum.

If you squint your eyes and use your imagination, you can see Florida the way Bean Backus saw it. Today, the land where shopping centers and housing developments stand surrounded by traffic was once a place where roseate spoonbills fed and the only sound was the rustling of the Everglades' grasses. Wetlands have become parking lots, and marshes became mansions along our once pristine waterways. Thanks to Bean's visual legacy, their memory is kept intact for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Recognized as the "Dean of Florida Landscape Painting", he is the standard to which other Florida landscape artists aspire. His subtle mastery of light and color are copied by many but equaled by none. His Fort Pierce studio was always alive and open, with 50 students, children's art classes, the curious, those who just wanted to debate the news of the day or perhaps wanted to pick up a brush and try painting.

Bean Backus is the inspiration behind the much acclaimed African-American artists known as The Highwaymen, and counted them among his friends. His compatriot, the legendary author Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, was also a close friend. Though a frequent dining companion of Ian Fleming of James Bond fame, he was most comfortable sharing a sunrise breakfast with the fishermen, workers and tall tale tellers in his hometown.

Today, we can best appreciate Bean Backus at the gallery named in his honor in Fort Pierce that receives tens of thousands of visitors each year. It boasts the largest permanent collection of Backus paintings and annually each spring showcases a large selection of additional Backus paintings from private collections. According to Bean's wishes, admittance has remained free and is supported solely by private donations.

Mr. Speaker, occasionally when the light is right, in the early hours you can almost see Bean at his easel near a window in the gallery recreating the best of Florida for the world to enjoy. Thank you Bean Backus for keeping alive the real Florida, forever.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN
OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT
ADMINISTRATION ON ITS 30TH
ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution honoring the men and women of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on its 30th Anniversary. The DEA has played a vital role in the battle against the drug epidemic in our country.

Before being elected to Congress, I was a federal law enforcement officer in the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) for 26½ years. Twelve of those years were spent as El Paso Sector Chief of the United States Border Patrol. One of the most important and most dangerous missions I had in the Border Patrol was the interdiction of illegal narcotics. I had the opportunity to work closely with the DEA in that mission, and can personally attest to the hard work, dedication and professionalism of DEA personnel.

Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure to represent the city of El Paso, Texas, a border town in the western-most tip of Texas. This area plays a critical role in our country's war on drugs. Last April my colleague Mr. SOUDER of Indiana, who is the sponsor of the resolution before us today, held a field hearing in my district to highlight the impact of drug trade in our area. Mr. Sandy Gonzalez, DEA Special Agent in Charge in El Paso, was a witness at this hearing.

As one might imagine, DEA has a significant presence in my district. The DEA-led El Paso Intelligence Center, or EPIC, was established by the Department of Justice in 1974 as an intelligence service center to be staffed by representatives of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), U.S. Customs Service and DEA. Initially, EPIC focused on the U.S.-Mexico border and its primary interest was drug movement and immigration violations. Today, EPIC has the same mission, but has broadened its scope to include all of the United States and the entire Western Hemisphere.

Mr. Speaker, I can personally attest to the value of the DEA in El Paso. I urge every Member of this House to join me in congratulating the DEA for 30 years of service in our country.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PETE AND
POLLY CONLON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to two people responsible for continuing a great tradition of entertainment in Beulah, Colorado. Pete and Polly Conlon's Flag Mountain Grill is a family-oriented attraction center that has been a source of entertainment for the citizens of Colorado for over a century. The Flag Mountain Grill is an incredible asset to the city

because it engages the community members in such a dynamic way, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing the Conlon's tremendous service to the Beulah community.

Pete and Polly Conlon are the owners of the Flag Mountain Grill, formerly known as Gayway Park. Currently, the Flag Mountain Grill serves as a restaurant but it began as a small boating pond that was carved out of a mountain valley. Over time, it expanded to include numerous baseball fields, the valley rodeo, and many other community events. During its heyday in the 1950's, Gayway Park was the weekend destination for the Pueblo community as a vibrant music and dance hall.

Mr. Speaker, the Flag Mountain Grill continues a long tradition, dedicated in bringing the people of Colorado together. Pete and Polly Conlon have enjoyed taking on the task of running this landmark institution in Beulah, and their enthusiasm and commitment certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I regret that an International Relations Committee hearing on Haiti yesterday caused me to miss Rollcall vote 38, on final passage of H.R. 1561, the United States Patent and Trademark Fee Modernization Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall vote 38.

RECOGNITION OF COLORADO
NONPROFIT WEEK

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Colorado Nonprofit Week, an annual event organized by the Colorado Association of Nonprofit Organizations (CANPO) and volunteer committees around the state. The purpose is to recognize and celebrate the vital impact Colorado's nonprofits have on our economy and quality of life.

In Colorado, there are over 16,000 nonprofits and nationwide there are over 850,000 charitable nonprofits. One-third of charitable nonprofits work in the area of human services, helping to meet the needs of all of our citizens through food banks, job counseling, shelters, domestic violence just to mention a few essential areas.

The other two-thirds of the nonprofit sector serve an even broader constituency—all of those who attend cultural performances, view exhibitions, visit galleries, take their children to museums, provide educational programming, work with animals and protect the environment, and many other vital, day-to-day parts of our lives.

The Colorado Association of Nonprofit Organizations has worked hard to make Colorado Nonprofit Week a success. Their goals have been to increase the visibility of nonprofits and